

RESOURCES for AGING

February 22, 2007 (Vol. 4 No. 1)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) in Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Complimentary issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on an e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies also are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Past issues can be accessed at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS/RESOURCES

State Legislature to Hold OSA and Medicaid Budget Hearings

The House Community Health Budget Subcommittee has scheduled a hearing to receive public testimony on the 2007 OSA budget at 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on **February 26**.

The Community Health Budget Subcommittee also has scheduled hearings to receive public testimony on the 2007 budget for Medicaid programs at 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on **February 27**, and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on **March 5**.

All hearings will be held in Room 352 of the State Capitol Building in **Lansing**, and the public is invited to attend and/or offer public comment. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov

Frigid Weather Endangers Senior Adults

Michigan's recent cold snap with freezing temperatures and wind chill can be especially dangerous for senior adults. With plenty of winter ahead of us, caution is still warranted.

"When it is so cold outside, we are concerned about the comfort and safety of Michigan's seniors," says OSA Director **Sharon Gire**. "We need to make sure they are protected, especially those who are frail and still living in their own homes."

As people grow older, their bodies become less efficient at regulating heat. If their body temperature dips below 94 degrees, hypothermia sets in and metabolism begins to be impaired.

While most people think hypothermia happens only to those who spend too much time outdoors, it can also happen to those who live in poorly insulated houses and keep the heater off to save money.

Chronic diseases such, heart disease, stroke, arthritis, Parkinson's disease, and diabetes can make it more difficult for elders to stay warm, and hypothyroidism, a deficiency in the thyroid gland that retards the rate of metabolism, also can affect body temperature during frigid weather.

To stay warm and safe, it is recommended that elders, as well as younger people,

follow some simple tips. Stay inside as much as possible. If you have to go out, dress appropriately and wear your clothing in layers.

Wear a hat, preferably one that covers your ears. Most body heat is lost through a person's head. Wear mittens because they provide more warmth than gloves. Also wear waterproof, insulated boots. They will keep your feet warm and dry, and help you maintain your footing in ice and snow.

The American Heart Association warns that exertion in cold weather can cause a heart attack, especially for those who have heart disease. So, if that sidewalk needs shoveling, take it slow. In fact, consider paying the kid next door to do it.

Get out of wet clothes immediately, and warm your body temperature with a blanket or warm fluids like hot cider or soup. Avoid drinking caffeine or alcohol. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience confusion, dizziness, exhaustion or severe shivering from the cold, or if you experience the warning signs of frostbite, such as gray, white or yellow skin discoloration, numbness, or waxy feeling skin.

If you suspect someone you know is experiencing hypothermia, help them seek medical attention immediately, or direct them to a local warming center. For the availability and location of a warming center in your community, contact your local unit of government, a local television or radio station or the American Red Cross.

For more information, go to www.nyc.gov/aging and see "Stay Safe in Colder Weather. See also the Administration on Aging website (www.aoa.gov) and go to "Features, Spotlight On: Avoiding the Winter Chill."

PSC Offers Winter Protection Plan

The State of Michigan Public Service Commission (PSC) offers a Winter Protection Plan to protect senior adults and low income customers of PSC-regulated natural gas and electric companies, rural electric cooperatives and alternative electric suppliers from electric or natural gas service shut-offs, as well as high utility payments, between December 1 and March 31 of each year.

Individuals qualify for this Winter Protection Plan if they are age 65 or older; receive Department of Human Services (DHS) cash assistance; or receive Food Stamps; or have a household income at or below 150% of the poverty level.

This plan will allow eligible senior adults to make monthly payments of at least 7% of their estimated annual bill, along with a portion of any past-due amount, December through March, and avoid shut-off during that time period even if their bills are higher.

They are not required to make specific monthly payments during that time, but are encouraged to do so to avoid higher bills when the protection period ends. At the end of the protection period, they must pay-off any money owed in installments between April and November.

To apply for this program, senior adults should contact their natural gas or electric utility company or alternative electric supplier. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/energyassistance and click on "Winter Protection Plan."

In addition, go to www.michigan.gov/bewinterwise and/or www.energysavers.org to find information about ways to save energy and manage winter energy bills.

OSA and MSU to Sponsor Statewide Meeting for Kinship Providers

The second statewide meeting for Kinship Service Providers will be held 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 14** at the Hannah Community Center, 819 Abbott Road in **East Lansing**. Guest speaker will be **Judy Troxtell** from Texas Area Agencies on Aging.

Sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center, it will enable Kinship Service Providers to share the successes and needs of their programs. It also will provide opportunities to network, learn from other programs, and help plan statewide kinship events.

Kinship care is defined as the provision of full-time nurturing and protection of children by adults, other than parents, who have a family relationship bond with the children, also known as relative caregivers.

Lunch will be provided. For more information or to RSVP, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to kinship@msu.edu.

MSU Students Initiate Family Caregiving Campaign

A team of Michigan State University (MSU) students have initiated an intergenerational state campaign that is part of a national public relations competition to help raise awareness about family caregiving in Michigan.

The intent of the campaign, called "Family Caregiving 101: It's not all Up to You," is to educate family caregivers about available resources, and reduce their emotional and physical burnout.

The MSU student team, representing the MSU Public Relations Student Society of America, has planned four events/activities during February to raise awareness and assist family caregivers.

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First, the team has been assigned the website www.familycaregiving101.org/team5. Everyone is encouraged to visit this site. The number of hits this website receives during the month of February will be used to evaluate the success of the team's campaign in Michigan.

Second, the team will conduct an "Informative Family Caregiving Fair," Saturday afternoon, **February 24** at the Capital Area District Library, Main Branch, 401 South Capitol in **Lansing**. This event will provide an opportunity for current and future family caregivers to learn about available resources and speak with organizations about family caregiving.

Third, the team is sponsoring a contest entitled, "Hidden Heroes: Nominate a Family Caregiver Contest." People of all ages are invited to submit an essay, not to exceed 200-words, about a family caregiver who should be recognized for the hard work he or she does each day. Essay must be e-mailed to nominateacaregiver@gmail.com or dropped off at Barnes & Noble (333 Grand River Avenue in East Lansing) by **February 25**. A nominated caregiver must reside in Ingham, Clinton ore Eaton Counties, and

must be age 18 or older. The care receiver must be a chronically ill or aging person age 50 or older who is unable to care for himself or herself.

Fourth, the team will hold a “Hidden Heroes Award Ceremony” Wednesday evening, **February 28** at Barnes & Noble (333 Grand River Avenue in East Lansing). If chosen, a caregiver will receive some great prizes in his or her honor.

For more information about this state campaign, call MSU student **Nicole Lisabeth** at 313/304-2873 or e-mail her at lisabeth1@msu.edu.

Thanks to Those who Responded to the Reader Survey!

As Resources for Aging, begins its 4th year, this is to say “thank you readers” for responding to the OSA e-newsletter survey that was e-mailed to you last October. A total of 11.1% of those on the e-newsletter distribution list completed and submitted the survey.

Of those who responded to the survey, 49.6% rated Resources for Aging “good,” and 41.6% rated it “excellent.” In other words, more than 90% (or 91.2%) of the survey respondents rated the e-newsletter either “good” or “excellent.” Only 8.8% rated it “fair,” and no one rated it “poor.” See the next issue for more survey results.

Senior Adults can Claim a Michigan Home Heating Credit for 2006

Senior adults can obtain a state tax credit for their home heating costs by completing and filing a “2006 Michigan 1040CR-7” form for the Michigan Home Heating Credit. It is funded by federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program Grants to help low income families and senior adults pay their home heating costs.

To claim a Home Heating Credit, senior adults must own or rent the home where they live, and it must be located in Michigan. They must own or rent only one homestead at a time, and it must be their permanent home or the place where they plan to return whenever they go away. Those living in subsidized senior citizen apartments may qualify. However, a vacation home or income property does not qualify.

Senior adults must be the occupant, owner or renter of the homestead, and they must have owned or rented it for at least part of the year. Also, their income must be within income limits, as specified on the Home Heating Credit form.

If they have lived in a licensed care facility for the entire year, they are not eligible. These include adult foster care homes, licensed homes for the aged, and nursing homes.

If they lived in a licensed care facility for part of 2006, they can claim the credit for that portion of the year when they lived outside the facility (the number of days they owned or rented and occupied their homestead). Also, if a spouse died in 2006, the surviving spouse may file a joint return for 2005.

To obtain a tax credit, senior adults must complete and file a “2005 Michigan 1040CR-7” form. This form is available on the Michigan Department Treasury web sit at www.michigan.gov/treasury, or call 800/827-4000. In addition, commonly used forms and instructions are available at seven Treasury offices, Michigan Secretary of State

branch offices, some post offices, and most public libraries and Department of Human Services (DHS) branch offices.

The standard credit computation for the Home Heating Credit uses standard allowances established by law. The primary filer will be asked to provide his/her social security number, and report total household income from all sources, both taxable and non-taxable. Also, the credit must be reduced by 50% when heat is included in senior adult's rent, or is in someone else's name.

The deadline for filing 2006 Home Heating Credits is **September 30**, but to receive priority in processing, file before **April 15**. Credit claims must be mailed to the Michigan Department of Treasury, Lansing, MI 48956.

If senior adults need help completing the Home Heating Credit form, they can contact their local senior center to find out if there is a volunteer tax preparation program available. In addition, they can call 800/827-4000 24-hours/day to access the Michigan Tele-Help System. Tele-Help is an automated system of informative recordings about the income tax property tax credit and the home heating credit.

For more information, go to the new Department of Treasury "Home Heating" website, www.michigan.gov/heatingassistance or call 800/487-4000 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday to speak with a Treasury Department representative. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or who have a speech impairment, can call 517/636-4999 (TTY).

Senior Center Holds Valentine's Day Tea Dance

Many older women have lost their spouses, and also their opportunities to dance. To fill that need, the Traverse City Senior Center held its annual Valentine's Day Tea Dance **February 14** at the center in **Traverse City**.

Each lady received a complimentary carnation, as well as a dance card when she arrived. The card enabled her to enjoy an afternoon of dancing with business leaders and distinguished gentlemen from the community. Each danced to live music performed by a local musician.

In past years, participants have mentioned that this annual tea dance transforms one of the loneliest days of the year into a day they look forward to. According to Senior Center Director **Lori Wells**, it is "our favorite event of the year." For more information, call her at the Traverse City Senior Center (231/922-4911).

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **March 13** in Conference Room 3B, on the third floor above OSA, 7109 West Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail to bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

Statewide Kinship Service Providers Meeting

Sponsored by OSA and the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center, it will be held 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **March 14** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information or to register, call **Ama Agyemang** at the Resource Center (toll-free 800/535-1218) or e-mail her at kinship@msu.edu. Also see the AGING NETWORK NEWS section (above).

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held 10:00 a.m. **March 16** at the Macomb Intermediate School District, 44001 Garfield in **Clinton Township** in conjunction with a State Plan Hearing that will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the same location. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **April 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. It will be a joint meeting with the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA). For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

Understanding Alzheimer's, an introductory program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter to recognize possible signs of Alzheimer's Disease; better understand how Alzheimer's is diagnosed; recognize the effects of Alzheimer's on the brain; and gain access to community resources. The programs will be held:

February 27 at the Human Services Building in **Adrian**

March 7 at the OV Senior Center in **Muskegon**

March 12 at the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) in **Cassopolis**

March 20 at the Tri-County Office on Aging in **Lansing**

March 27 at the Shelby Public Library in **Shelby**

For more information, go to www.alzmgreatlakes.org or call 800/272-3900.

Living History at the Cass County CoA, a unique portrayal of the struggles of African-American women seeking equality and justice, sponsored by the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) in celebration of Black History Month **February 22** at the CoA in **Cassopolis**. For more information, call 800/323-0390.

Calling 911...the Details! a seminar sponsored by the Portage Senior Center and Life Emergency Medical Services (EMS) **February 23** at the center in **Portage**. For more information, call 269/329-4555 or e-mail to senior@portagemi.com.

Informative Family Caregiving Fair, sponsored by students representing the Michigan State University (MSU) Public Relations Student Society of America as part of a national competition **February 24** at the Capital Area District Library in **Lansing** to help raise awareness of family caregiving and available resources. For more information, go to www.familycaregiving101.org/team5 or call 313/304-2873. See also the AGING

NETWORK NEWS/ACTIVITIES section of this issue (above).

Congestive Heart Failure, sponsored by the Madison Heights Senior Activity Center and the Wayne State University (WSU) Nursing Program **February 26** at the center. For more information, call 248/545-3464.

Why We Can't Wait, a presentation on HIV/AIDS and cancer in the African-American community sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Diversity Workgroup in celebration of Black History Month **February 27** at the Capitol View Building in **Lansing**.

Public Hearing on State Revenue, hosted by Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) **February 27** at the Burnham Brook Center in **Battle Creek** to solicit public input regarding the Governor's proposed tax plan and budget proposals, including proposed fee increases. For more information, call the Michigan League for Human Services (517/487-5436).

Pre-retirement Seminar for state employees and recent retirees, sponsored by the State Employee Retirees Association (SERA) **February 27** at the Michigan Library and Historical Center in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/321-0041.

Hidden Heroes Award Ceremony, sponsored by students representing the Michigan State University (MSU) Public Relations Student Society of America as part of a national competition **February 28** at Barnes & Noble in **East Lansing** to recognize family caregivers who have been nominated in an essay for their outstanding care of chronically ill or elder individuals age 50 or older. For more information, go to www.familycaregiving101.org/team5 or call 313/304-2873. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS/ACTIVITIES section of this issue (above).

Public Hearing on State Revenue, hosted by Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) **February 28** at Baker College in **Jackson** to solicit public input regarding the Governor's proposed tax plan and budget proposals, including proposed fee increases. For more information, call the Michigan League for Human Services (517/487-5436).

American Images: Celebrating Americans at Work and Leisure, a "Wednesday Morning Senior Coffee" program sponsored by the Allen Neighborhood Center **February 28** at the neighborhood center in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/367-2468.

10th Anniversary Open House, sponsored by Area Seniors, Inc. and the Antrim County Commission on Aging **March 1** at the Bellaire Senior Center in **Bellaire** that was built with township millage monies and numerous fundraisers. For more information, call 231/533-8703.

Making Sense of Memory Loss, a three-part workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **March 1, 8 and 15** at Foote Hospital in **Jackson** to learn how to prepare for and cope with changes that are likely to occur with progressive memory loss. For more information, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call 734/677-3081.

AGHE 2007 Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference, sponsored by the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE) **March 1-4** at the Hilton

Portland and Executive Tower in **Portland, OR**. For more information, go to www.aghe.org or call 202/289-9806.

AAGP 2007 Annual Meeting, sponsored by the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP) **March 1-4** at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in **New Orleans, LA**. For more information, go to www.aagpgpa.org or call 301/654-7850, ext. 110.

First National Conference for Caregiving Coalitions, sponsored by the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) **March 5**, and held in conjunction with the 2007 Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) at the Embassy Suites Chicago Downtown in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.caregiving.org or e-mail to info@caregiving.org.

Making Sense of Memory Loss, a three-part workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **March 5, 12 and 19** at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in **Ann Arbor** to learn how to prepare for and cope with changes that are likely to occur with progressive memory loss. For more information, go to www.alzmidgreatlakes.org or call 734/677-3081.

Family Caregiving: State of the Art, Future Trends, a national conference sponsored by the National Center on Caregiving at the Family Caregiver Alliance **March 6**, and held in conjunction with the 2007 Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.caregiver.org or call toll-free 800/445-8106.

Making Sense of Memory Loss, a three-part workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **March 8, 15 and 22** at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo** to learn how to prepare for and cope with changes that are likely to occur with progressive memory loss. For more information, go to www.alzmidgreatlakes.org or call 734/677-3081.

7th NAHOF Conference, entitled "Aging & HIV/AIDS in the 21st Century: Prevention, Advocacy, Care & Treatment" and sponsored by the National Association on HIV Over Fifty (NAHOF) **March 8-10** at the Hyatt Regency in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.hivover50.org or call 617/262-5657.

What Everyone Needs to Know About Diabetes, sponsored by the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) and the Southern Michigan Diabetes Outreach Network **March 15** at the CoA in **Cassopolis**. For more information, go to www.casscoa.org or call toll-free 800/323-0390.

Making Sense of Memory Loss, a three-part workshop sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **March 15, 22 and 29** at Muskegon Family Care in **Muskegon** to learn how to prepare for and cope with changes that are likely to occur with progressive memory loss. For more information, go to www.alzmidgreatlakes.org or call 734/677-3081.

Dealing with the Stresses of Caregiving, a special program for caregivers and those who provide support to caregivers, funded by the Mt. Pleasant Community Foundation, and sponsored by the Isabella County Commission on Aging (CoA) **March 22** at the First Presbyterian Church in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information or to make a

reservation, call 989/772-0748.

Working with Someone with Dementia: Assessing Caregiver Interactions, a seminar sponsored by the Health & Human Services Careers Department and Mental Health & Aging Project at Lansing Community College **March 23** at the college in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

n4a 13th Annual Aging Policy Briefing & Capitol Hill Day, sponsored by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) **March 26-28** at the Phoenix Park Hotel in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.n4a.org or call 202/872-0888.

GCM 23rd Annual Conference, entitled "Boston 2007: GCMs Go the Distance" and sponsored by the National Association of Geriatric Care Managers (GCM) **April 11-15** at the Intercontinental Hotel in **Boston, MA**. For more information, go to www.caremanager.org or call 520/881-8009.

AGS 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting, sponsored by the American Geriatrics Society **May 2-6** at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel in **Seattle, WA**. For more information, go to www.americangeriatrics.org or call toll-free 800/247-4779.

Fourth Annual Michigan Mental Health & Aging Conference (formerly the OBRA Conference), sponsored by the Lansing Community College (LCC) Mental Health & Aging Project **May 8-9** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

20th Annual Issues in Aging Conference, part of the Colloquium Series sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **May 14-15** at the Management Education Center in **Troy**. For more information, call 313/577-1180 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu

Michigan Nonprofit SuperConference 2007: Surviving and Thriving through Seasons of Change, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) **May 15-16** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Conference on Ministry with the Aging entitled "Stages: Age is Just a Number!" planned by representatives from a variety of religious denominations and sponsored by the Baptist Homes of Indiana and **May 15-16** at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in **Columbus, IN**. For more information, call 317/635-3552.

Conference on Ministry with the Aging entitled "Aging Well: The Way it Was, the Way it Is, and the Way it Could be!" planned by representatives from a variety of religious denominations and sponsored by the Baptist Homes of Indiana and **May 17-18** at Don Hall's Guesthouse in **Fort Wayne, IN**. For more information, call 317/635-3552.

20th Annual Conference, sponsored by the Area Agencies on Aging Association on Aging (AAAAM) **May 30-31** at the Michigan State University (MSU) Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/886-1029.

AAA 36th Annual Meeting, sponsored by the American Aging Association (AAA) **June 1-4** at the Marriott Plaza in **San Antonio, TX**. For more information, go to www.americanaging.org or call 610/627-2626.

NANASP Annual Training Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Programs (NANASP) **June 27-29** at the Grand Sierra Resort & Casino (formerly the Reno Hilton) in **Reno, NV**. For more information, go to www.nanasp.org or call 202/682-6899.

GU 14th International Conference, entitled “Intergenerational: It’s Monumental” and sponsored by Generations United (GU) **July 24-27** at the Holiday Inn on the Hill in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.gu.org or call 202/289-3979.

n4a 32nd Annual Conference, sponsored by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging **July 29-August 1** at the Hyatt Regency in **San Francisco, CA**. For more information, go to www.n4a.org or call 202/872-0888.

2007 Minority Women’s Health Summit, entitled “Women of Color: Addressing Disparities, Affirming Resilience, and Developing Strategies for Success” and sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Women’s Health” **August 23-26** at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capital Hill in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.womenshealth.gov.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

Eighth Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled “Vitality and Inspiration” and sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) Elder Advisors to Research **March 29, 2007** at the Greater Grace Temple in **Detroit**. For more information call 313/577-2297.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/TRAINING EVENTS

Understanding Alzheimer’s Disease & Related Dementias, sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 6** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Legal & Financial Issues: Tips for Making Financial and Medical Decisions on Behalf of a Person with Dementia, sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 13** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

Strategies for Navigating the Dementia Journey, sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Michigan Chapter **March 20** at the Ionia County Commission on Aging (CoA) in **Ionia**. For more information or to make a reservation, call 616/459-4558 or toll-free 800/272-3900.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

2007 Annual Housing Policy Conference and Lobby Day, sponsored by the National Low Income Housing Coalition **February 26-27, 2007** at the Capital Hilton in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.nlihc.org or call 202/662-1530.

2007 Joint Conference, sponsored by the National Council on Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 7-10, 2007** at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and Towers in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.org or call toll-free 800/537-9728, ext. 9675.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Oklahoma Looks for New State Director

The Oklahoma Department of Social Services is looking for a new Director of Aging Services. Located in **Oklahoma City, OK**, this is the State Office on Aging for Oklahoma. The annual salary range is \$82,066.32 to \$102,582.84.

Under the administrative direction of the Chief Coordinating Officer, this position will plan, organize, coordinate and direct the administration of the Aging Services Division with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Applicants with eight years of professional experience in human services or related work, and four years of administrative/supervisory experience are preferred. Applicants with a bachelor's degree may be considered. For a complete job description, send a request to jobs@okdhs.org.

Applicants must reference Announcement #07-B006 on a cover letter, and attach resume. Send to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, HRMD, P.O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125; or attach documents to an e-mail and send to jobs@okdhs.org. Applications must be received by **February 28**. For more information or to request an application form, call 405/522-6797.

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FEDERAL REGISTER (December 4 – January 28)

HUD Funds Housing Grants for Persons with Disabilities

See the Federal Register dated **December 4** (Vol. 71, No. 232). Go to "Housing and Urban Development Department" and see "Notices." This notice from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces funding decisions made by HUD in a competition for funding under the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons With Disabilities Program. This program is designed to provide capital advance funds to nonprofit organizations for the development of independent living projects, group homes and condominium units with the availability of supportive services for very low-income adults, age 18 or older, with disabilities. Project rental assistance contract funds are also provided to cover the difference between the HUD-

approved operating costs of the project, and tenants' contributions for rent. One grant recipient is from Michigan. The Liberty Hill Housing Corporation in Westland received a capital advance of \$1,195,100 for nine units, and \$102,000 for a three-year rent subsidy. For more information, call 202/708-3000.

AoA Seeks Public Input for Alzheimer's Disease Program Reporting

See the Federal Register dated **December 8** (Vol. 71, No. 236). Go to "Aging Administration" and see "Notices." This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services requests public comment regarding proposed collection of information requirements for the Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants to States (ADDGS) Program. The ADDGS Program funded by the AoA helps states extend family support services provided by subgrantees to underserved populations, including those in rural communities. Because the AoA is required by federal law to provide for an evaluation of each demonstration project, therefore, it has developed a new state data collection protocol for ADDGS grantees, beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2007. The AoA requests public comment by **February 6** regarding this proposed data collection tool and accompanying definition of terms for the ADDGS Program. For more information, call 202/357-3452.

CMS Outlines Patient Rights Under Medicare and Medicaid

See the Federal Register dated **December 8** (Vol. 71, No. 236). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare and Medicaid, Hospital Participation Conditions." This final rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **January 8**, sets forth final requirements for patient rights in hospital settings. It is applicable to all Medicare and Medicaid participating hospitals, and contains standards that ensure minimum protection of each patient's physical and emotional health and safety. It focuses on patient safety and the protection of patients from abuse. Specifically, it focuses on the right to be free from the inappropriate use of restraint and seclusion, and it protects the patient when the use of either intervention is necessary. This final rule also includes standards regarding staff training and death reporting. For more information, call 410/786-6899.

CMS Finalizes Program Revisions for PACE

See the Federal Register dated **December 8** (Vol. 71, No. 236). Go to "Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services" and see "Rules, Medicare and Medicaid, Programs" This final rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **January 9**, outlines program revisions to Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to establish requirements for PACE under the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Specifically, it implements section 903 of the Medicare, Medicaid and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act. For more information, call 410/786-4533.

Corporation Issues Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **December 11** (Vol. 71, No. 237). Go to "Corporation for National and Community Service" and see "Proposed Rules." This Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda for the Corporation for National and Community Service announces the regulations that the Corporation will have under development, revision or review during the next year. The purpose for publishing this agenda is to give notice of any regulatory activity by the agency in order to provide the public an opportunity to

participate in the rulemaking process. For more information, call 202/606-6677.

HHS Announces Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **December 11** (Vol. 71, No. 237). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” This Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda inventories the rulemaking actions under development by the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and presents for public scrutiny a forecast of the rulemaking activities that HHS expects to undertake during the foreseeable future. The purpose is to encourage public participation in the regulatory process by providing as early as possible summarized information about regulatory actions under consideration. Members of the public wishing to communicate to HHS their views on the potential rulemaking outlined in this agenda are encouraged to do so. For more information, contact the HHS Executive Secretary, Washington, DC 20201.

HUD Issues Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda

See the Federal Register dated **December 11** (Vol. 71, No. 237). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is publishing its Semi-annual Regulatory Agenda to outline regulations already issued or that are expected to be issued during the next several months. The agenda also includes rules currently in effect that are under review, and describes those regulations that may affect small entities, as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The purpose of this agenda is to encourage more effective public participation in the regulatory process by providing the public with early information about pending regulatory activities. For more information, call 202/708-3055.

FCC Gives Final Regulations for the TCPA

See the Federal Register dated **December 14** (Vol. 71, No. 240). Go to “Federal Communications Commission” and see “Rules.” This final rule from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) contains revisions to the final regulations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). The regulations relate to unwanted telephone solicitations pursuant to the TCPA. They provide consumers with options for avoiding unwanted telephone solicitations. They provide delivery requirements and privacy restrictions. For more information, call 202/418-2512.

HHS Considers How to Combat Influenza and Distribute Vaccines

See the Federal Register dated **December 14** (Vol. 71, No. 240). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Notices, Pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza vaccines.” This notice from the US Department of Health and Human Services warns that a modern influenza pandemic, absent effective control measures, could result in the deaths of 200,000 to 2 million people. Therefore, the HHS strategy is to control the spread of a pandemic and reduce its health and societal impact through the use of vaccines. For the purpose of developing influenza vaccine prioritization guidance, HHS requests input from the public on priorities for allocation of both pre-pandemic and pandemic influenza vaccines. HHS is interested in receiving comments on factors that should be considered in order to provide guidance on priority groups for vaccines to best achieve national pandemic response goals. Which population group(s) should have priority for receiving both pre-pandemic and pandemic vaccines, and what is the

rationale? How can fairness, equity, efficiency and related principles be reflected in the determination of priority groupings for receipt of vaccines? For priority groupings, how should the vaccine be allocated, distributed and administered? Who (federal, state or local authorities) should determine this? For more information, call 404/639-8953.

HUD Announces Housing for the Elderly Grant Awards

See the Federal Register dated **December 19** (Vol. 71, No. 243). Go to “Housing and Urban Development Department” and see “Grant and cooperative agreement awards.” This notice from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announces HUD competitive funding decisions under section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program. The two grant recipients from Michigan are both in Detroit. Presbyterian Villages of Michigan received a capital advance of \$5,175,900 for 46 units, and \$509,700 for five-year rental subsidies. Lutheran Social Services of Michigan likewise received a capital advance of \$5,175,900 for 46 units, and \$509,700 for five-year rental subsidies. For more information, call 202/708-3000.

President Declares January National Mentoring Month

See the Federal Register dated **December 29** (Vol. 71, No. 250). Go to “Presidential Documents” and see “Proclamations.” This proclamation by the President proclaims **January** as National Mentoring Month 2007, and encourages citizens to recognize the importance of mentoring, to look for opportunities to serve as mentors, and to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities. Mentors are caring individuals who are committed to helping the next generation to reach their full potential. They help teach important skills that are necessary for a healthy, successful life, and help shape the character of young people. Mentors help motivate children to do their best in school. By providing leadership and guidance, mentors can inspire younger people to set high goals and help them achieve a bright future.

DOT Addresses Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability

See the Federal Register dated **January 23** (Vol. 72, No. 14). Go to “Transportation Department” and see “Proposed Rules.” This notice from the US Department of Transportation (DOT) announces that the DOT is proposing to issue a new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) rule to ensure nondiscrimination on the basis of disability by passenger vessels. This notice of proposed rulemaking concerns service and policy issues. Public comment must be submitted by **April 23**. The DOT has issued rules concerning nondiscrimination on the basis of disability for almost every mode of public transportation (bus, subway, commuter rail), as well as over-the-road buses, intercity rail and air transportation. The only mode on which the DOT has yet to propose rules is transportation by passenger vessels. For more information, call 202/366-9306.

HHS Updates Poverty Guidelines for 2007

See Federal Register dated **January 24** (Vol. 72, No. 15). Go to “Health and Human Services Department” and see “Notices.” This notice from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provides an update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for the last calendar year’s increase as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Federal law requires the HHS Secretary to update, at least annually, poverty guidelines which shall be used as eligibility criteria for the Community Services Block Grant program. The poverty guidelines also are used as eligibility criteria for a number

of other federal programs. The poverty guidelines in this HHS notice reflect the 3.2% price increase between the 2006 and 2007 calendar years. The poverty guidelines for 2007 for the 48 contiguous states, including Michigan, are \$10,210 for a family of one; \$13,690 for a family of two; \$17,170 for a family of three; \$20,650 for a family of four; \$24,130 for a family of five; \$27,610 for a family of six; \$31,090 for a family of seven; and \$34,570 for a family of eight. For families with more than eight members, \$3,480 must be added for each additional person. For more information about how the guidelines are used, or how income is defined in a particular program, contact the federal, state, or local office that is responsible for that program. For general information about the poverty guidelines, call 202/690-7507.

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

The following are bills and public acts from the 2007-2008 legislative session that have been identified as being of probable interest and importance to senior adults and aging network service providers.

These bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. They are not listed if they have only been introduced and assigned to a committee. To be listed, they must have moved further in some way as part of the legislative process. Also, these bills do not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor do they indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call OSA Director **Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail her at osadirector@michigan.gov.

2007 House Bills that Moved

None

2007 Senate Bills that moved

Senate Bill (SB) 176 of 2007

The Public Health Code currently directs that the state retain \$42.4 million in quality assurance assessment program (QAAP) revenue in FY 2005-2006 with no amount specified for subsequent years. The bill would amend the Code to direct that \$46.4 million be retained for 2005-2006, which would reflect the actual amount that was retained. During 2002, QAAPs were instituted for nursing home and hospital services

as a way to increase net funding for providers while producing General Fund (GF/GP) savings for the state. A QAAP is a tax upon an entire provider group, and the revenue accrues to the state and supplants GF/GP dollars, thus producing GF/GP savings. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 2-6-07. Senate substitute bill concurred in 2-14-07. Passed by the Senate 2-15-07. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 2-15-07.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan, as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families. OSA administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, products/services and all other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting recommendation/endorsement by OSA or any of its staff members. The information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested. If you wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to researcher/writer **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include name, e-mail address, telephone number, city and organization/agency (if any).

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to dekkerd@michigan.gov or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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